

The invention is to relax the influence of noise with patch images of a number as small as possible, in consideration of the correlation of noise. For

5 attaining this objective, in the preparation of a
patch image to be used for generating image processing
data, the patch image is made to include plural
patches of a same color and such plural patches of the
same color are so arranged as to reduce the mutual
10 influence of the noise color signals by the self
correlation of the noise color signal in the plural
patches of the same color.